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EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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ENCLOSURE



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585
March 26, 1990

Received
Office Of The Manager
MAR 29 1990

Mr. Joe La Grone
Manager
Oak Ridge Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8501

Joe has seen
1. Stent L.H.
2. Jan 1990
Action: OCC 3/30

Dear Mr. La Grone:

In my initiative to chart a new course for the Department of Energy (DOE) toward full accountability in the areas of environment, safety, and health, I delineated a four point program to ensure that the Department's epidemiologic research activities are appropriate, effective, and represent excellence. The conduct of epidemiologic studies of DOE contractor workers requires certain basic data found only in contractor administrative, organizational and operational records. The basic data include medical, personnel, exposure, work history and litigation records. It is imperative that these data, which are of potential value for assessing the health consequences of exposures to radiation or toxic substances, not be lost or destroyed. The Director of Energy Research, in his letter of March 15, 1989, to all Operations Office Managers requested that these types of data be retained by contractor organizations, and the Secretarial Panel for the Evaluation of Epidemiologic Research Activities (SPEERA) has recommended to me in its interim report to immediately extend the moratorium on the destruction of such records.

I hereby extend the moratorium on the destruction of the records identified in the March 15, 1989, letter that are important for the conduct of epidemiologic studies until such time as the records management and disposition schedule can be properly amended.

Please inform all Department of Energy contractor organizations under your cognizance of this directive and contact local Federal Records Centers responsible for the management of your records to ensure that proper measures are implemented immediately to retain, store, protect and preserve the data in question.

Sincerely,

James D. Watkins

James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)